

A B S T R A C T

This research aimed at identifying from the Students' Measured Ability and their perceptions of their Home and Classroom Environment the most important correlates of Academic Performance (measured by the students' results obtained in "O" Level and Teacher Assessed Examinations) and Social Competence (measured by their perceptions of their Self Concept, Motivational Levels and Relational Qualities). It also aimed at determining whether Social Competence was itself a correlate of Academic Performance. The data were collected from a select sample of 413 students in the fifth forms of three Secondary (Grammar) Schools in Kingston and Saint Andrew.

The two major statistical procedures utilized for this study were:

1. Orthogonal Factor Analysis (Varimax rotation), which confirmed that the dependent variables and the independent variables (with the exception of those delineating Home Environment) were grouped as had been conceptually conceived.
2. Multi-Linear Regression, by which the best predictors of Academic Performance and Social Competence were selected in order of their importance. For both dimensions of Academic Performance these predictors were:
 - Measured Ability
 - Parental Occupation
 - Parental Support and Encouragement
 - Teacher Non-Punitiveness
 - and - Intellectuality of the Home,

while for the three dimensions of Social Competence these were:

- Parental Support and Encouragement
- Teacher Support
- Student Involvement
- Teacher Work Organization
- Intellectuality of the Home
- Parental Interest in School
- and - Measured Ability

Partial support was also obtained for the view that Social Competence was in itself a correlate of Academic Performance.

Although these predictors were all significant at the 5% or better level, the percentage of variance accounted for was quite small - thus suggesting that replication studies are necessary. In spite of this, the finding that Measured Ability and some aspects of Home and Classroom Environment influence Academic Performance and the development of Social Competence of the students is considered to be of some importance.